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CALGARY • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2008 metronews.ca

Next edition

Metro will not be publishing on Christmas Day. The next edition will appear on Friday, Dec. 26.

Season's Greetings from Metro Calgary
Season's Greetings from Metro Montreal
Season's Greetings from Metro Toronto
Season's Greetings from Metro Lisbon
Season's Greetings from Metro New York
Season's Greetings from Metro Ottawa
Season's Greetings from Metro Stockholm
PEACE ON EARTH
Metro International wishes everyone a safe & happy holiday!
Season's Greetings from Metro Helsinki
Season's Greetings from Metro Philadelphia
Season's Greetings from Metro Copenhagen
Season's Greetings from Metro Paris
Season's Greetings from Metro Halifax
Season's Greetings from Metro Edmonton
Season's Greetings from Metro Vancouver

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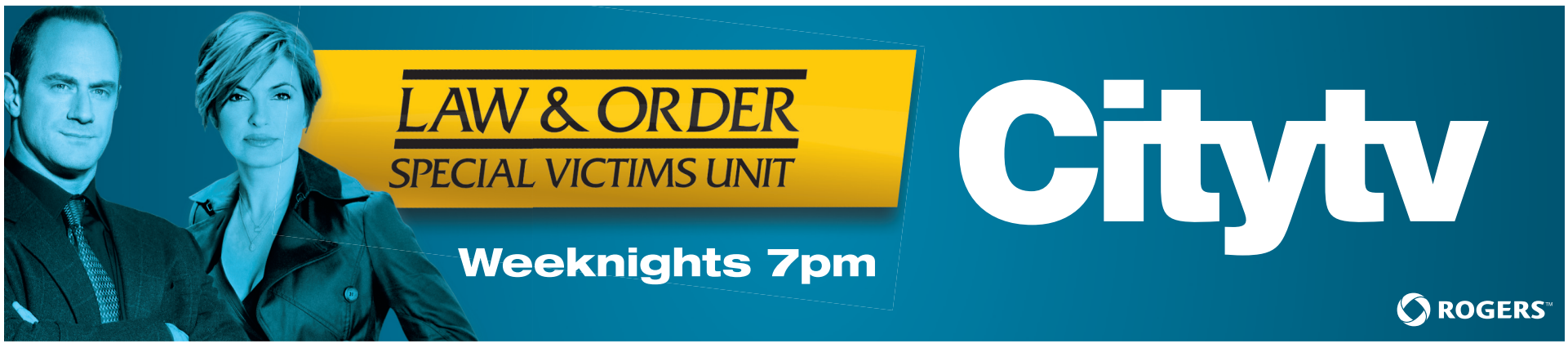
Hospital on schedule
Calgary's newest hospital is set to be ready on time and on budget, according to reports. The new 300-bed hospital set to open in 2011 will be located on off Deerfoot Trail and 196 Avenue SE. The cost of the project is an estimated $1.4 billion. METRO CALGARY

Local

City banks sand

Calgary's outside contractors are going to have to find a new source of gravel as the city won't be selling any more of its stock to companies who take care of parking lots. The city has dumped about 25,000 tonnes of sand on Calgary roads and won't be selling more to outside companies anytime soon to make sure they don't run out incase of ongoing snowy conditions. METRO CALGARY



metro life panel

Top 2008 events

- Dramatic drop of oil, and its impact on Calgary
- Stampeders win Grey Cup
- Franklin Station murder — Arcelie Laogan murdered and disfigured beyond recognition — stirred fears among transit riders as victim was killed just outside station.
- Brazilian student Jose Neto loses sight in both eyes after hit with errant gunfire
- 41 stingrays die a mysterious death at Calgary zoo
- Dalhousie murders
- Calgary tax hike/budget
- Juno awards put spotlight on Calgary
- Air Scare — 10 people injured when Air Canada jet hits massive air pocket and makes emergency landing in Calgary
- Two Calgary soldiers, Michael Starker and Chad Horn, killed in Afghanistan

AS VOTED BY METRO LIFE PANEL

Please recycle

Christmas spirit alive

NEIL MACKINNON
neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca

The generosity of Calgarians will make Christmas Day a special one for thousands of the city's homeless.

At the Calgary Drop-In Centre, donations from city residents have ensured a visit from Santa as around 1,500 homeless will awake to stockings stuffed with essentials and candy and 653 gifts have been donated towards the Christmas Wishlist.

From Christmas Eve to Boxing Day, the Centre will also dish out 80, 15-pound turkeys, more than two dozen 15-lb. hams and roasts, along with 1,000 pounds of stuffing, 1,200 pounds of vegetables and 200 litres of gravy.

"This year especially, Calgarians have been particularly generous," said the Centre's Louise Gallagher. "It can be a really tough time of year where people reflect on past dinners with those they love and when you're homeless, it can be with a bunch of strangers, so we do what we can to make it special."

At Mustard Seed shelters both downtown and in the Foothills Industrial park, the 27th annual Bannerman-Clark dinner will present an entire spread to their guests, replete with a visit from Santa, gifts and live music throughout the day.

The Bannerman-Clark dinner began as a means to quell the sadness surrounding the season for Calgary's homeless and has turned into a celebration of sorts, said the Seed's Courtney Fliss.

NEIL MACKINNON/METRO CALGARY

Mustard Seed food service manager Brendan Shea doesn't care if he sees another turkey until next Christmas after spending five days cooking 80 plump birds for the shelter's impending feast.

ShareYourViews
calgaryletters@metronews.ca

News in brief

SHOOTING A man was shot yesterday near the Marlborough Wal-Mart yesterday late afternoon and shots were also reported fired on 52 Street NE and Memorial Drive near the same time. EMS responded shortly after 4 p.m. yesterday to the 100 block of 36 St. NE and transported one patient to hospital for further evaluation and treatment for a gunshot wound. METRO CALGARY

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Check metronews.ca to stay up-to-date over the holidays with news, horoscopes and games
Video Stephen Harper's competition for Canadian newsmaker of the year at **metronews.ca/canada**
Video Having tough luck at the airport? Rent a seat on a corporate jet at **metronews.ca/local**
Video The military defends controversial nighttime raids in Afghanistan at **metronews.ca/canada**

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Looking for office space next year?

Office vacancy rates in Calgary are set to jump in 2009 as new buildings are opening during an economic downturn, a study released by Colliers International yesterday. METRO CALGARY

138 charges from home raid

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Calgary police are concerned about the increased level of sophistication after a raid on a home south of Calgary turned up homemade bombs, guns, weapons and drugs.

On Monday, Calgary police and RCMP conducted a search on a home in Heritage Pointe and seized the items and arrested and charged five people in connection as well as apprehended a young girl.

But what has police most concerned about the seizure is the high level counter-surveillance system set up at the home they raided in Heritage Pointe.

In total, police seized four homemade bombs, two shotguns, one semi-automatic pistol, an assault rifle, body armour, hashish, cocaine, marijuana, ecstasy and the surveillance system.

Calgary police Staff Sgt. Gord Eiriksson said the homemade bombs are alarming. Eiriksson said it was a "blatant disregard for human life" that there was an eight-year-old girl in the home with access to the loaded guns and weapons, but couldn't comment further on her relationship to those arrested in the home.

Police have laid 138 charges against Anthony Beare and Stephanie Dean of De Winton, and Sopha Moeun, Real Honorio and Stephen Carter of Calgary.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

Weapons, guns, drugs and pipe bombs seized by authorities after a warrant executed on Monday in Heritage Pointe, just south of the city.

Deadline beckons for last-minute shoppers

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

It's Christmas Eve and you haven't started your shopping yet, or perhaps you're just finishing up stocking stuffers, but you need help — and you're not alone.

While the city's shopping haunts will be swamped today, there are some off the beaten path places to try with less parking issues, including downtown and 17th Avenue.

Downtown shops are close to transit and offer a unique variety of choices that are often not found in malls, Calgary Downtown Association Janet Jessiman said.

"We have everything and it's less crowded and transit brings you right to the door practically. I don't know why anyone would go anywhere else," she said.

Jessiman said not only is the shopping unique but there are a variety of places to enjoy a Christmas lunch, too.

"And you can't go wrong with gift cards," she added.

If you do need to venture out to the city's malls though, follow the advice of Chinook Centre spokesperson Peggy Lee and ask retailers for gift ideas.

"They are there to help and have a variety of gift ideas to help you with if you're stuck," she said.

And if you're looking for parking at the city's biggest mall — park in the back.

Dos and don'ts

- DO prepare and bring a gift wish list
- DON'T show up at the mall unprepared
- DO buy gift cards and stocking stuffers
- DON'T wait until Christmas Day to buy!

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Ontario negotiating to share water supply

Critics have warned the Ontario government that negotiating with Detroit to share Ontario's water supply sets a dangerous standard. Detroit has been taking water from the Canadian side of the river it shares with Windsor for the past four decades without Ontario's knowledge, the Ontario Ministry of Environment recently revealed. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

Olympic icon backs Senate picks

Canadian Olympic icon Nancy Greene Raine, left, backed Prime Minister Stephen Harper, saying that he had to make a rash of Senate appointments if he was ever going to make any inroads on reforming the upper chamber. Greene Raine, who was one of 18 Canadians named to the Senate on Monday, won gold and silver medals in alpine skiing at the 1968 Grenoble Olympics and overall World Cup titles in 1967 and 1968. CBC NEWS ONLINE

Finding peace everywhere

For Michael Gayner, the vehicle is meditation. For Sister Margaret O'Keefe, it is prayer. For both, finding meaningful peace is tied to the practical action of helping to bring peace into the world.

Gayner, 47, is a teacher at the thriving downtown Toronto Buddhist community centre. It's there that Sister Margaret O'Keefe, an 83-year-old Catholic nun and retired schoolteacher, recently spent three days in silent retreat with the other nuns. There is a common thread running through conversations with these two spiritual teachers — that inner peace naturally flows into helping others find peace, too.

Sister Margaret O'Keefe

Michael Gayner

Michael Gayner

Q: How do you find peace in the city?

A: I don't seek peace through meditation, nor do I find it there. To find real peace for all people, you would have to overlook a lot of injustice in the world. That's not what it's about for me.

Q: So, you see the density of the city as an opportunity?

A: If you become dependent on the mountains or the country for sanity, that's problematic. There's a weakness in being who you want to be.

Q: Do the Buddhist teachings apply in your everyday life of getting around the city, answering e-mail, meeting people?

A: The saying is: "Don't wait in ambush." It arises as a teaching to deal with your plotting. Like, when you're walking down the street but you're thinking: "I'm going to get him!" or "Here's what I'm going to say to him!" I find myself doing that sometimes and the saying comes to mind.

Margaret O'Keefe

Q: How do you find peace in the city?

A: It's not the place, but the practices that sanctify.

Q: How do you define peace?

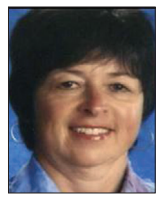
A: I think peace is the fruit of your decision to be faithful to your call. It's not outside of you. You can't find peace in things. It has to come from inside.

Q: Is this a very peaceful place during your annual Christmas retreat?

A: This year, we had a talk about hope ... And, you know, peace is a lot like hope. You make a choice to be peaceful, just like you make a choice to be hopeful. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Long recovery for storm survivor

RESCUE A Toronto-area woman managed to survive for three days buried deep in a snowbank, most likely because the snow helped to insulate her, police said Tuesday.



Donna Molnar

Donna Molnar, 55, was last seen on Friday when she left her home west of Toronto in a snowstorm to get baking supplies. Her van was found abandoned by the side of a windswept rural road late the next day.

Rescuers approaching the spot found Molnar, who was suffering from hypothermia. She is now in hospital in serious but stable condition.

Upon arriving at the hospital, Molnar was put on painkillers while doctors assessed her injuries. They indicated her recovery would be long as her body temperature had dropped to about 30 C and was hypothermic. **REUTERS**

News in brief

SNOWSTORMS Thousands of travellers were hoping to salvage their holiday plans as airports throughout B.C. scrambled yesterday to clear a backlog of snow-trapped passengers before the next snowstorms arrive.

WEATHER B.C. police are linking the deaths of at least five people to B.C.'s current cold snap, according to reports from around the province. Alcohol appears to have played role in at least two of the deaths. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Season's Greetings

Best wishes to all of our students, staff and their families for a safe and happy holiday season.

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Mexico beauty queen caught in anti-drug raid
A Mexican beauty queen and international pageant winner has been detained by police along with suspected drug traffickers who had assault rifles and cash. REUTERS

World

Greek police bus shot

No one injured in shooting near university

Hundreds of anarchists chanting "Cops, pigs, murderers!" marched through Athens yesterday, hours after a gunman opened fire at a riot-police bus in a third week of anti-government protests.

An unidentified gunman shot at the bus carrying 19 officers when it stopped at traffic lights outside a university campus in eastern Athens at around 5 a.m.

Two bullets hit the bus, bursting a tire, but no one was injured in the incident. It came after a two-day lull in Greece's worst riots in decades, sparked by the shooting of 15-year-old Alexandros Grigoropoulos.

"It's worrying us. We collected seven bullet cases from the spot."
Police spokesman Panagiotis Stathis

"It's worrying us," police spokesman Panagiotis Stathis told Mega TV. "We collected seven bullet cases from the spot."

A police official said the shots were believed to have come from the campus and were fired from a military weapon. Authorities are investigating a call from a previously unknown group called Public Action to a popular Greek news website claiming responsibility. REUTERS

Syria **Marching Santas**

KHALED AL-HARIRI/REUTERS

Students dressed as Santa Claus take part in a march yesterday, organized by Christian churches, to celebrate Christmas in Damascus, Syria.

Chinese give two pandas to Taiwan

ASIA A pair of giant pandas from China's fog-shrouded mountains reached an excited, but wary, Taiwan yesterday, a sign of improved relations between the long-time political rivals.

After arriving at the Taipei city zoo in a truck with police escorts, Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan, whose names said together mean "unite," were taken to a $9.24-million US complex where they should draw huge crowds.

Giving away pandas is seen as China's most popular use of soft power toward Taiwan since 2005, when it began making offers instead of military threats to impress the self-ruled island that Beijing considers its own. REUTERS

News in brief

MIDDLE EAST Israel must complete its Jerusalem barrier by 2010, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said yesterday. Of the 790-kilometre network of fences and walls Israel is building in and along the occupied West Bank, one-fifth runs around Jerusalem. Palestinians have condemned the project as a major obstacle to any peace accord. REUTERS

Newsmaker **of the Year**

Obama seen as president of change

RISE TO POWER Barack Obama, who dominated headlines during his ascension to the U.S. presidency, is the newsmaker of the year, as chosen by Metro Canada editors.

His speech at Chicago's Grant Park on Nov. 4 was watched around the globe and had the excitement of a major sporting event.

Obama, who will be sworn in as the 44th U.S. president on Jan. 20, will be the first African-American to lead the world's most influential nation. His rise to power, 45 years after the height of the civil rights movement led by Martin Luther King, inspired millions who saw him as someone whose hard work allowed him to break race barriers and succeed.

Adding to the exhilaration surrounding Obama the man is the sense of change he represents as compared to outgoing president George W. Bush.

Obama is seen as the anti-Bush, a leader who can restore the United States' image and improve the economy. METRO CANADA

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Comment & Views

Comment

Getting over the holiday hump

LifeCycle

Denise Rudnicki
drudnicki@gmail.com

If you're celebrating Christmas with your family, then this column is not for you. If you are experiencing your first Christmas following the breakup of your marriage, then read on.

That first Christmas is marked by self-pity, regret, sorrow and fear. That's normal. That's even if you wanted the marriage to end.

I remember my own "first Christmas" five years ago in the new apartment, overwhelmed and incapable of making a Christmas for my two teenagers; succumbing to mother's guilt and putting up a small tree; feeling sick as I hung the decorations we'd collected as a family for 20 years; finding the surfing Santa Claus we'd bought on our honeymoon; putting out three Christmas stockings and leaving the fourth one in the box.

I remember their Dad's expensive gifts; my meagre ones; my dumb decision to make pasta for dinner instead of turkey; feeling confused about what family traditions I should try to keep going for the kids; not caring about family traditions anymore; trying not to cry in front of them but sometimes failing; worrying about them; knowing they worried about me. What fun.

It's hard to believe when you are in that black hole of despair; when your home is gone and your kids aren't with you; when you would rather hide under the kitchen table than face Christmas on your own, that it could ever be anything but horrible. But like everything else, there's a right way and a wrong way to get over the hump. You can either make an opportunity out of the fact that your life has changed or wallow. So make the right choice.

Get rid of your anger. Stop fighting with your ex. Become independent. Show your kids you can cope with anything. Become an example to them. Your kids would rather see Mom going for job interviews, determined to make a new life, than sobbing in her eggnog as she reads the forwarded Christmas card from her ex-mother-in-law. Keep a sense of humour, even if it's pretty black at first. Believe me, it does get better. You will reinvent yourself and you will be happy again.

Christmas is a wonderful time and you will figure out a combination of new and old ways of enjoying it and making it meaningful. So don't be too hard on yourself if you aren't perfect this first Christmas. Focus on the future, not the past. Love your kids. Love yourself. Do these things and it will be a merrier Christmas next year.

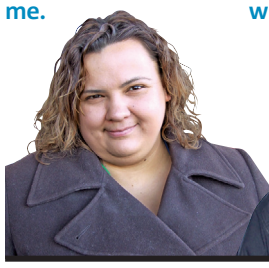
Denise Rudnicki is a West Coast-based writer, communications executive, and journalism instructor at Royal Roads University.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Word on the street: Do you find the holiday season stressful or relaxing?

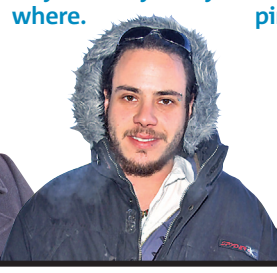
Maryanne Smith
age 26, Calgary

A: I find it very stressful, actually, because I work in retail. So it's been pretty hectic for me.



David Blass
age 22, Calgary

A: I think the holidays are a very stressful time of year because it's always so busy everywhere.



Kirsty MacRae
age 24, Ottawa

A: I find it relaxing. I did all my shopping online, so I don't have to go to the mall. And I got shipping deals, too.

Dave Mattes
Edmonton

A: Not (stressful) anymore. I finished my Christmas shopping, so I think I'm good to go.

Roger King
age 29, Halifax

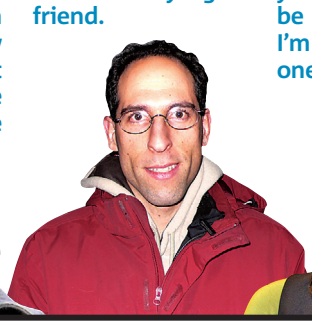
A: In retail, it's stressful ... but I get four days off. It's like a good book, it builds up to a climax.

Tracy Leblanc
Edmonton

A: I do find it stressful because I live in Ottawa and my family lives (here in Edmonton) — my luggage got lost and my flight came in at four in the morning.

Shawn Jordan
age 33, Toronto

A: Relaxing, because I get to spend it with my girlfriend.



Leisha MacDonald
age 24, Ottawa

A: I don't find it stressful at all. This year, I'm trying to be more artistic ... I'm painting everyone's present.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: calgaryletters@metronews.ca
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10 **Agreement close on emergency spending jolt**
The Obama administration is nearing an agreement with congressional Democrats on a bill intended to create three million jobs over two years, vice-president-elect Joe Biden said. **REUTERS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Grocers win in recession

In times of economic turmoil, it's good to be in the grocery business for more than the obvious reasons.

People still need to eat. While they can put off buying a bigger TV or the latest winter boot, they're still going to be in the grocery store. Every week.

Another well-known benefit of bad times is that consumers tend to cut out restaurant meals and do more home entertaining, one more plus for the local food retailer.

But a less obvious fact is that even as the most value-conscious customers "trade down" to cheaper store brands, it can help boost the retailer's bottom line as store brands are more profitable for them.

"The only one who loses is the consumer packaged-goods company."
Martin Weintraub

And the move to private label products also gives the retailers more bargaining power with name-brand suppliers, who become more eager to jointly fund special promotions to regain lost market share.

"The only one who loses is the consumer packaged-goods company," says Martin Weintraub, managing director of retail consulting firm Karabus Management. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

metro life panel

Top 2008 events

- 1. Financial sector meltdown
- 2. Gasoline prices hitting an all-time high as oil costs a record $147.27 US a barrel
- 3. TSX drops more than 800 points
- 4. Auto sector meltdown
- 5. Hudson's Bay Co. is purchased by American investor
- 6. Housing crisis
- 7. Canada posts its worst November job loss numbers in 25 years
- 8. Conrad Black begins jail term
- 9. Zoom Airlines files for bankruptcy protection
- 10. Manufacturing sector meltdown

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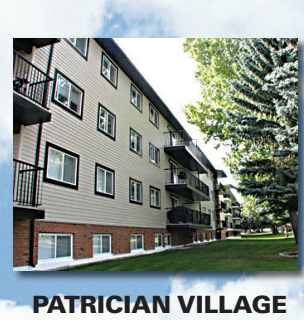
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Career night for Rautins
Canadian national basketball team member Andy Rautins equalled a Syracuse University record with nine three-pointers in an 82-71 Orange victory over Coppin State Monday night. Rautins, the son of men's national coach and Raptors broadcaster Leo Rautins, also scored a career-high 29 points in the game. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Teixeira to where else? Yankees

The New York Yankees, generally perceived to be on the fringes of the Mark Teixeira sweepstakes, dramatically swooped in yesterday to strike a deal for the biggest prize among position players on the free-agent market. The Yankees, who recently signed the top two starting pitchers on the market – left-hander CC Sabathia and right-hander AJ Burnett – gave the all-star first baseman an eight-year, $180 million US deal. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Flames topple Ducks

NHL RESULT

Flames 4 Ducks 3

VS DUCKS

LAURENCE HEINEN
for Metro Calgary

THE SKINNY: Mike Cammalleri scored the game-winning goal and added an assist as the Flames (19-11-4) now have points in six straight contests.

POOLIE UPDATE: Blue-liner Mark Giordano also recorded a goal and an assist, while Jarome Iginla and Craig Conroy each had two helpers.

DEBUT: Following in his dad Darryl Sutter's skate blades, forward Brett Sutter made his NHL debut for the Flames and scored a clutch third-period goal on an assist from veteran linemate Craig Conroy.

TODD KOROL/REUTERS

Anaheim Ducks' Nathan McIver bleeds after fighting Calgary Flames' Eric Nystrom during last night's game.

THE QUOTE: "It was definitely pretty special," said Sutter, adding his dad most likely enjoyed the moment as well. "Might be able to get a smile out of him for the first time in a while."

THE GREAT EIGHT: Along with his five uncles and cousin Brandon Sutter of the Carolina Hurricanes, Brett became the eighth member of the famous family to suit up in the NHL.

THE CAREER HIGH: With his second-period goal, David Moss now has 11 on the season to surpass his previous best total of 10 he recorded in 41 games two seasons ago.

THE BIG HIT: Early in the game, Rene Bourque set the tone for the Flames by hammering Anaheim blue-liner Steve Montador heavily into the boards in the offensive zone.

THE NEXT GAME: After the Christmas break, the Flames continue their five-game homestand on Saturday when the Ottawa Senators visit the 'Dome.

The season of giving and forgiving

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

I spend (waste?) lots of time ripping prima-donna megazillionaires in professional sports, hot shots who somehow think their perspiration smells nicer than ours. I guess I'm a jaded sportswriter.

Today, however, I'm actually feeling somewhat sorry for some of these same dudes. I guess it's the time of year.

Like, honestly, I'm finding myself hoping Michael Vick and Sean Avery and Plaxico Burress — perpetrators of loathsome acts — get second chances in the new year and rebound from adversity.

I'm hoping Todd Bertuzzi reaches a mind-easing settlement to an issue that was created by his despicable violence but that has dragged on too long.

I'm hoping Roger Clemens and Barry Bonds somehow prove they didn't load up with performance-enhancing drugs and receive the bouquets we long figured were coming to them for their domination in baseball.

I hope Casey Printers is allowed to stay with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and shows he deserves the CFL-high salary this woebegone franchise inexplicably gave him.

I hope Manny Ramirez signs for the unfathomable dollars he craves and is allowed by his new manager to let his hair grow down to below the butt inside his baggy pants.

I hope Craig MacTavish survives as head coach of the Edmonton Oilers, though I seriously doubt that will happen with a struggling squad proving it has nowhere near the type of talent we reckoned it would this season.

I hope Jay Triano — the first Canadian head coach in NBA history and a decent chap by all accounts — can revive the Raptors, though I seriously doubt that will happen since overrated club czar Bryan Colangelo has provided him with a dog of a team (that has only two bona fide players — Chris Bosh and Jose Calderon).

And I hope you enjoy the holidays.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

metro life panel

Top 10 Canadian sports stories of 2008

- Canadians win three gold medals at the Summer Olympics in Beijing
- Not often does a song rank as a top story, but the memorable Hockey Night in Canada theme song played on CBC for the last time in June and moves over to TSN
- The first regular-season NFL game is played in Canada and is something of a flop
- Sam Mitchell is fired as head coach of the Toronto Raptors and is replaced by assistant coach Jay Triano, who becomes the first Canadian head coach in NBA history.
- The Dallas Stars cut Sean Avery in December after he makes lewd remarks
- Adam van Koeverden was heavily favoured to win gold in the 1,000 and 500 metre races in men's kayaking in Beijing but finishes eighth and second, respectively
- Led by first-year CFL coach John Hufnagel and quarterback Henry Burris, the Calgary Stampeders win the Grey Cup in Montreal
- It was an extraordinarily tough year as a bevy of CFL luminaries die, including Joe Krol, Ron Lancaster, Jake Gaudaur, Bob Ackles, Leif Pettersen, J.I. Albrecht, Ralph Sazio and Earl Lunsford
- After months of speculation, the Toronto Maple Leafs hire ex-Vancouver Canucks GM Brian Burke as their new chief.
- The Toronto Blue Jays finish out of the playoffs again, bringt back manager Cito Gaston in midseason and say goodbye to club president Paul Godrey

AS VOTED BY METRO LIFE PANEL

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Last-Minute
Gift Guide
Special holiday gift guide for the last-minute shopper

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Deck the halls with reds, whites

NATALIE MacLEAN
for Metro Canada

Still looking for a last-minute gift? Those on your list who enjoy wine are the easiest to shop for: One size fits all, you don't have to spend a bundle to get a delicious bottle and doubles are great for the cellar.

Here are my top 10 favourite wines to give as gifts, to enjoy with your holiday dinner or to treat yourself.

2008 Cono Sur Viognier, Chile ($10.95 SRP)
Amazing wine for the price. Gorgeously aromatic with notes of rose petals, lychee, apricot and Asian pears.
Pair with: Curries, Asian dishes, shellfish, sushi, salads and turkey.
Score: 89/100.

2006 Cookoothama Chardonnay, Darlington Point, Australia ($13.95 SRP)
A round, warm chardonnay with ripe apples, butter, vanilla and melon. Closed with a screwcap.
Pair with: Roast chicken, corn.
Score: 87/100.

2007 Gabbiano Pinot Grigio, Venezie, Italy ($12.95 SRP)
A crisp white with mild white grapefruit and melon notes. Good acidity.
Pair with: Shellfish, salads, vegetables, quiche, goat cheese and pear salad.
Score: 86/100.

2006 Louis Jadot Chardonnay, Burgundy, France ($20.95 SRP)
Classic Burgundian lines with mellow richness. Ripe apples, butter and smoke fill the glass. Full-bodied.
Pair with: Pasta in cream sauce, seafood risotto.
Score: 89/100.

2006 Don Mendoza Reserve Merlot, Mendoza, Argentina ($10.50 SRP)
A lip-smacking, delicious and full-bodied red. Notes of mocha, luscious plums, black cherries and vanilla. Smooth and round. Vineyards are in the Uco Valley, which has hot days and cold nights.
Pair with: Grilled lamb, steak with mushroom sauce, pasta in a spicy tomato sauce, dark chocolate.
Score: 89/100.

2007 Wolf Blass Gold Label Adelaide Hills Pinot Noir, Adelaide Hills, Australia ($21.95 SRP)
A vibrant, medium-bodied red with ripe cherries and plums. Silky tannins. Closed with a screwcap.
Pair with: Chinese five-spice duck with wild mushrooms, steam greens and turkey dinner.
Score: 89/100.

2006 Tinhorn Creek Vineyards Cabernet Merlot, British Columbia ($17.99 SRP)
A lovely, rich and deeply textured cabernet merlot. Notes of black raspberries with vanilla and smoky oak.
Pair with: Red meats, pasta with tomato sauce, strong cheeses, dark chocolate.
Drink: 2008-2012.
Score: 90/100.

2006 Perez Cruz Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon, Maipo Valley, Chile ($13.95 SRP)
An absolutely phenomenal wine for the money! Rich, robust with black plums and comfort.
Pair with: Spicy dishes, steak, hamburgers.
Score: 90/100.

2007 Chateau Des Charmes St. David's Bench Vineyard Gamay Droit, V.Q.A., Niagara Peninsula, Ontario ($16.95 SRP)
A peppery, robust number loaded with delicious blackberries and black plums. Great balance and smooth texture.
Pair with: Rare prime rib, beef stew, Chinese egg rolls, asparagus, dark chocolate truffles.
Score: 89/100.

2004 Cathedral Cellar Shiraz, South Africa ($16.95 SRP)
A rich, layered red with dark red fruit and a hulking oak wrap. Big, bulky and tasty.
Pair with: Steak, boar, roast, grilled meats.
Score: 89/100.

Natalie MacLean, author of the bestseller Red, White and Drunk All Over, publishes a free wine newsletter at nataliemaclean.com.

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BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

"I should have listened to her more."

The phrase crackles through my brain like lightning as I clamour for a gift, or even a gift idea, for my girlfriend. For months, she had dropped hints and I was just too stupid to listen. I tuned out the clues among the 13,000 more words she says per day than I do, words that I dismissed as idle chit-chat while dreams of AC/DC tickets and Kenny vs. Spenny DVD sets danced in my head.

Well, look at me now. Fighting testy last-minute men like me as we scramble for something that proves we actually care. It's a scene common to shopping malls as the clock ticks down to the big day, says Anna Waller, co-host of W Network's The Shopping Bags. While not attempting to stereotype, Waller says men are more likely to put off their seasonal shopping until the last minute, and can show up to a mall with no plan.

There's still a bit of time to buy that special someone a gift.

"One common mistake men in that position make is that they wander aimlessly into the mall with no clue about what they want to buy," she said. "Shop in the magazines first to get an idea of what you want. Then you get in, get it and get out. No problem."

Waller says you can still, even at this desperate hour, guess what she might like for Christmas. You can surely answer some of these questions: What does she do on her time off? What makes her happy? Has she recently landed a new job?

"Women are always talking about what they want. You're supposed to be paying attention," Waller said. "Women think it's romantic when you know exactly what they want. If you don't know, ask yourself what's been going on in her life. You can even keep a secret diary of what she says."

Ideas for the techie

Still looking for inspiration? Check out these ideas, along with approximate prices, from Best Buy's Kiara Barrett:

- DVD/Blu-Ray boxsets, such as the James Bond Blu-Ray Collection ($64.99)
- Apple 1GB IPod Shuffle ($49.99)
- Global Holdings 1.5" Digital Photo Frame Keychain ($19.99)
- Hasbro Oye I-Dog, left, ($24.95)
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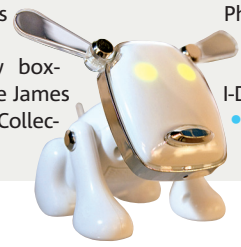

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EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Hey good-looking

VW Passat CC a winner all the way

LORNE DRURY
for Metro Canada

The 2009 Volkswagen Passat CC has a coupe-like look, for a four-passenger sport sedan. The Passat CC was the winner in the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada best new family car over $30,000. It is now in the running for 2009 Canadian car of the year.

When I first saw the Volkswagen Passat CC at the Detroit auto show last January, I was impressed by its styling.

Finally, here was a Volkswagen with real pizzazz, one that stands out and makes a statement.

Not that all the other Volkswagen offerings are bland, but none are as stylish as the Passat CC — a sedan with a sweeping roof line that gives it a coupe-like look, similar to the Mercedes CLS. It's so striking it just may be the best-looking Volkswagen ever produced.

And when I had a chance to drive it for the first time at the recent Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) Car of the Year Testfest in Niagara-on-the-Lake, I came away even more impressed.

So were the other judges. The Passat CC (the CC stands for Comfort Coupe, I'm told) was judged best new family car over $30,000 for 2009.

It's available with two engine choices— a 2.0-litre four-cylinder in line turbocharged engine, producing 200 horsepower and 207 lb/ft or torque and a 3.6-litre 280-horsepower V6 with 265 lb/ft of torque.

While the Passat CC is a head-turner because of its superb exterior styling, the interior is nothing to sneeze at either.

Whether in sportline or highline trim, the cabin is nicely done. The stylish dash is well thought out with all knobs, gauges and buttons easy to reach. Some observers think the dash material with its "pebbly" appearance takes away somewhat from the elegance of the design, but I really don't have a problem with it.

The use of polished aluminum and wood grain trim as interior accents adds to the appeal of the cabin and the Nappa leather seats in my test vehicle were top grade.

The sport-style driver's seat is heavily bolstered and I never really got it adjusted for a perfect fit. I suspect that was my doing rather than a design factor. Rear seat headroom was adequate and actually better than expected with the sloping coupe-style roof line, which is about 50 mm (two inches) lower than in the Passat sedan.

Legroom is also fine for rear-seat passengers, but this is truly a 2 + 2 design with buckets front and rear.

In AJAC testing, the CC produced acceleration numbers of 7.9 seconds (0-100 km/h) and 5.9 seconds (80-120 km/h) and a braking number of 43.1m (100-0 km/h).

Fuel consumption ratings for the 2.0T are 10.8L/100 km (26 mpg) city and 7.1L/100 km (40 mpg) highway, with an average of 9.1L/100 km (31 mpg).

Nissan tech on AJAC's honour list

AWARDS Nissan Canada has announced Infiniti's groundbreaking Around View Monitor technology was named one of three finalists for the Automotive Journalists Association of Canada's 2009 technology awards.

The Around View Monitor was launched in January 2008 and has become a landmark technology for Infiniti. It uses small, super wide-angle cameras — mounted on the front, side and rear of the vehicle — to project a sharp real-time 360-degree view of potential objects on every side of the vehicle, helping reduce blind spots when parking.

First introduced on the 2008 Infiniti EX, the system uses advanced image processing to provide a unique top-down view of the vehicle, making it easy for the driver to position the vehicle for parallel parking by simultaneously confirming the exact placement of the front and rear of the vehicle.

A digital image processor creates the image and an in-dash colour monitor displays the image.

How are potential car buyers reacting to the economy? Find out at metronews.ca/auto

Make vroom for the year's best

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz
Veteran auto journalist

A plethora of all-new vehicles appeared over the last 12 months.

So let's have a quick look back at this veritable smorgasbord of vehicle offerings, and see what whetted our appetite, and what caused some gag reflex action, part way down the old esophagus.

Our favourite small car of the year, hands down, is the Honda Fit. This thing fights way above its weight class.

Our favorite small-ish car with muscle is the 291-hp Mitsubishi Evolution MR. With S-AWC (Super All Wheel Control), which can vary the torque to all four wheels, this thing can turn an average driver into a Schumacher.

BMW's new "entry level" line, the 1 Series, is not perfect, but it pushes all my rear-drive buttons. The automaker's 230-hp I6 from the 3 Series is fitted into this smaller, lighter package, with predictable results. The optional twin-turbo 330 hp version is, well, even better.

If you need a crossover with three rows of seating, we really like the stylish and space-efficient Ford Flex.

If you can get by with a smaller crossover, our pick would be the redone Subaru Forrester. Its flat-four engine keeps weight low in the chassis, and a turbocharged version is optional and a great way to get more shtickle without going to a six.

You might have shied away from The General in recent years, but the big lug pulled no punches in bringing its latest mid-size sedans to market.

The Malibu, Aura, and G6 are all derived from the solid Epsilon platform, and this year's introduction of the Malibu Hybrid has our vote as best four-cylinder sedan.

Another great sedan in our books is the new Mazda6, which has grown up and matured to compete more directly with Accord and Camry. Roomy, stylish, comfortable, and still goes zoom, zoom.

Another fave this year is the VW Jetta SportWagon TDI, the first to sport VW's new super-clean 2.0-litre turbo diesel engine. Great way to move to a station wagon without going totally Brady Bunch.

The concept of "Hyundai" and "luxury" may seem at odds, like the Maple Leafs and Lord Stanley, but the new Hyundai Genesis is the real lux deal — and great value. Go Leafs, go.

The new Dodge Challenger might be disappointing in some ways. Too heavy. Too big. But what the hell? It rings a lot of emotional bells.

New or redesigned vehicles that surprised us this year, by how extremely unappetizing they were, included the Chrysler Sebring Convertible (clunky and chunky), the Altima Coupe (a dark tunnel of an interior), and Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder (the Stephen Harper of sports cars).

Thankfully, there's no more room to expand this anti-list. Who wants to be rude during the holiday season? Have a good one.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

metro life panel

Top cars of 2008

- 1. Honda Fit
- 2. Chevrolet Malibu Hybrid
- 3. BMW 1 Series. Coupe and convertible
- 4. Mazda6
- 5. VW Jetta SportWagon TDI
- 6. Dodge Challenger
- 7. Subaru Forrester
- 8. Hyundai Genesis
- 9. Ford Flex
- 10. Mitsubishi Evolution MR.

AS VOTED BY METRO LIFE PANEL MEMBERS

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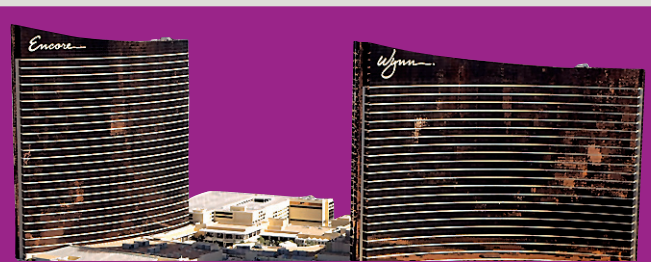
Tackling delays at LaGuardia

U.S. aviation regulators are pressing airlines to voluntarily trim operations at New York's congested LaGuardia airport, after a plan to auction takeoff and landing rights at three of the city's airports was stayed by a court. LaGuardia is the most delay-prone airport in the U.S. **REUTERS**

Travel



Encore Las Vegas

Encore, entrepreneur Steve Wynn's new $2.3 billion US resort and casino in Las Vegas, opened this week. Among its features is an Italian restaurant themed on the late crooner Frank Sinatra. Visit *encorelasvegas.com*. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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NYC's holiday highlights

TheTravelJunkie

Julia Dimon

metronews.ca/traveljunkie

AMNH/D. FINNIN

Skaters enjoy the American Museum of Natural History's new Polar Rink.

Manhattan is a magical place over the holiday season. Twinkling white lights decorate storefronts, while horse-drawn carriages trot through a snow-dusted Central Park. Even with a troubled economy, nothing beats Christmas in New York! With restaurants, bars, theatres and department stores packed with happy holiday-goers, you'd never know we're in a recession. If you're planning a trip to the city, here are my top things to do in NYC this holiday season:

Practice your high kick:

The Christmas Spectacular, starring the legendary leggy Rockettes, is an annual holiday tradition at Radio City Music Hall, the largest indoor theatre in the world. While the legendary show only runs until Dec. 30, aspiring Rockette dancers can kick up their heels all year long.

The Rockette Experience is a three-hour workshop taught by a real Radio City Rockette. Wannabes can learn choreography from the Rockette's repertoire, go through a mock audition, pose with a Rockette teacher, and take the Stage Door Tour.

The program gives regular people the opportunity to train with these world famous dancers in their actual rehearsal hall. Students must be at least 10 years old, with some training in jazz, tap and ballet. For $108, you get a Rockette dance class, a tour and a free t-shirt. *radiocity.com/rockettes*

Cirque:

Catch Wintuk, a Cirque du Soleil holiday production at Madison Square Gardens, which runs until Jan. 4. Wintuk "tells the touching winter tale of a boy's quest for snow in an imaginary land." In typical Cirque style, Wintuk includes acrobatics, creatively costumed dancers, puppets and high-energy music. This family-oriented show boasts some 50 performers, from contortionist tight-rope walkers to jugglers, balancing their technical twists and twirls.

Sharpen your skates:

While there are many iconic places in Manhattan to ice skate (including Rockefeller Center or Central Park) the Polar Rink is a sparkling new facility to cut your blades on. The American Museum of Natural History, which offers such exhibits as Sea Monsters, Climate Change and The Butterfly Conservatory, now boasts a state-of-the-art skating rink.

Visitors can sip hot chocolate, take in the Upper Westside view and glide around a 17-foot-tall polar bear. Skate rental is included in the ticket price, which is $10 for adults, $8 for kids and $9 for students and seniors. *amnh.org/museum/polarrink*

Light up:

For an illuminated look at New York, hop aboard a guided tour of Brooklyn's most famous (and often gaudy) Christmas lights. This three-and-a-half-hour tour takes visitors through the Italian-American neighbourhood of Dyker Heights, a residential area said to have the most extravagant holiday yard decorations. A trip here promises mansions draped with lights and front yards stacked with neon nativity scenes, animatronic toys, mechanical reindeer and 30-foot toy soldiers.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of thetraveljunkie.ca.

Career Finder
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Valuable hanky
Scarlett Johansson's used tissue has raised $5,300 for charity. U.S. TV network NBC put the soiled tissue on auction website eBay after The Spirit star appeared on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno last week. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Entertainment

You betcha

Tina Fey was voted The Associated Press' Entertainer of the Year, an annual honour chosen by newspaper editors and broadcast producers across the country. MSN.COM

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Movie **morsels**

Bedtime Stories

REVIEW Bedtime Stories brings Adam Sandler to Disney and the results are predictably placid. Sandler's once anarchistic comic spirit has been dulling with age and joining the Disney team feels like an appropriate crash landing for his downward trajectory. The film is far too predictably childish to appeal to the actor's core audience. It would have starred Steve Guttenberg and gone straight to video 10 years ago.
Phil Brown/Metro Canada

The Reader

REVIEW On paper, The Reader sounds like a syrupy hanky fest suitable only for TV broadcast. Yet, like the Bernhard Schlink book it is based on, the movie is actually a surprisingly complex examination of the holocaust. The film is about Michael Berg, who as a young man had an affair with an older woman named Hanna Schmitz. He later discover that she was a former SS guard at a concentration camp. What starts as love affair soon transforms into a meditation on the challenges post-war Germany faced in accepting the compliancy of the previous generation.
Steve Gow/Metro Canada

The Spirit

REVIEW Oddly enough, The Spirit reminds me of a cartoon version of James Bond. See, in the same sense that the British spy is an indestructible crime fighter driven largely off the insatiable appetite of women, so too is this comic book icon. In fact, replace 007's trademark martini with a glowing red tie and you might not be able to tell him apart from George Lazenby.
Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Valkyrie

REVIEW Valkyrie is an ambitiously high risk project for Tom Cruise, and the truth is the film will likely struggle to fill theatre seats as it focuses on an assassination attempt on German dictator Adolph Hitler. Cruise plays Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg, a tragically injured soldier that joins an inside gang of Nazi conspirators to eliminate Hitler.
Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Button fantastical

The Curious Case of **Benjamin Button**

Director: David Fincher
Stars: Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett
Classification: PG
Rating:

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

There's a lot of talk about Brad Pitt possibly sneaking an Oscar for his role in The Curious Case of Benjamin Button — he definitely gives the best performance of his career.

Based on a tale by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Button tells the life story of a man who is born with the physicality of an 80-year-old but mysteriously ages in reverse, meeting impossible challenges along the way.

Button plays up the more surreal aspects of such an odd character. While he struggles to fit in with other kids as a wrinkled youngster, salty sea dogs mistake him for an old codger and escort Button to brothels, hire him to work the high seas and open his eyes to a world normally reserved for jaded adults.

Director David Fincher (Zodiac) captures the more fantastical elements of the movie including a hilarious recurring storyline about a guy who keeps getting struck by lightning.

Ultimately, it's that culmination of bizarre subplots and side stories that distract from the emotional core and stretch Button out to a weighty sitting length. At 166 minutes, the real curious case of Benjamin Button is whether you can get to the end without a bathroom break.

metro life panel

Top 2008 actors

Ledger

- 1. Heath Ledger (The Dark Knight)
- 2. Meryl Streep (Doubt)
- 3. Angelina Jolie (Changeling)
- 4. Sean Penn (Milk)
- 5. Brad Pitt (The Curious Case of Benjamin Button)

Top 2008 movies

- 1. The Dark Knight
- 2. Wall-E
- 3. The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
- 4. Slumdog Millionaire
- 5. Frost/Nixon

SOURCE: AS VOTED BY METRO LIFE PANEL MEMBERS

5 GOLDEN GLOBE® NOMINATIONS
BEST PICTURE (Drama)
BEST DIRECTOR David Fincher
BEST ACTOR (Drama) Brad Pitt
BEST SCREENPLAY Screen story by Eric Roth and Robin Swicord; Screenplay by Eric Roth
BEST ORIGINAL SCORE Alexandre Desplat

TIME
"A SPRAWLING, ENTHRALLING MOVIE. Opens a window onto our common mortality, where the very young and the very old are similarly dependent and the years in between are a precious gift." – Richard Corliss
ELLE
"ONE OF THE BEST MOVIES OF THE DECADE. At once familiar and like nothing ever seen on screen before. The chemistry between Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett is nothing short of glorious." – Karen Durbin
Newsweek
"BRAD PITT GIVES ONE OF THE SUBTLEST, MOST TOUCHING PERFORMANCES OF HIS CAREER. Lyrical, original, deeply felt." – David Ansen
BRAD PITT
CATE BLANCHETT

The Curious Case Of BENJAMIN BUTTON

PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENT A KENNEDY/MARSHALL PRODUCTION A DAVID FINCHER FILM BRAD PITT CATE BLANCHETT "THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON"
TARAJI P. HENSON JULIA ORMOND JASON FLEMYNG ELIAS KOTEAS AND TILDA SWINTON MUSIC BY ALEXANDRE DESPLAT EDITED BY KIRK BAXTER ANGUS WALL PRODUCED BY KATHLEEN KENNEDY FRANK MARSHALL CÉAN CHAFFIN
FROM THE SHORT STORY BY F. SCOTT FITZGERALD SCREEN STORY BY ERIC ROTH AND ROBIN SWICORD SCREENPLAY BY ERIC ROTH DIRECTED BY DAVID FINCHER
WARNER BROS. PICTURES THE KENNEDY/MARSHALL COMPANY PG COARSE LANGUAGE, NOT RECOMMENDED FOR YOUNG CHILDREN
benjaminbutton.com
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IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE CHRISTMAS DAY
CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORIES FOR LOCATIONS AND SHOWTIMES

4 GOLDEN GLOBE® AWARD NOMINATIONS
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BEST DIRECTOR STEPHEN DALDRY
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS KATE WINSLET
BEST SCREENPLAY DAVID HARE

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No expectation can prepare you for 'The Reader's emotional impact. The acting is superb. Kate Winslet gives an Oscar®-caliber performance that is one of the most devastating of her career. I can think of no praise high enough for Director Stephen Daldry.
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT AGAIN."

KATE WINSLET RALPH FIENNES
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Screen Times

New releases are highlighted in pink.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM WED., DEC. 24 TO THURS., DEC. 25. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

CANYON MEADOWS
Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail, 403-670-5444

Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) Wed 1:05-3:30
Body of Lies (14A) Wed 12:55-4:05
Changeling (14A) Wed 1-4:05
City of Ember (PG) Wed 3:40
Eagle Eye (14A) Wed 1:20-4:20
Ghost Town (PG) Wed 3:40
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Wed 1:20-4:10
Mamma Mia! (PG) Wed 1:30-4:10
Max Payne (14A) Wed 1:10-3:55
Passchendaele (14A) Wed 12:50
RocknRolla (14A) Wed 1
The Secret Life of Bees (PG) Wed 1:10-4:10

CROWFOOT CROSSING
91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

Australia (PG) Wed 2-6:30
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 4:15-6:45-9:20
Bolt (G) Wed 12:10-2:45-5-7:25 Thu 2:45-5
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 3:40-7:40
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 12:50-1:10-3:50-4:10-7-7:15 No Passes Thu 3:50-7:15-10:05
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 12:30-3-6:30 Thu 3-6:30-9:30
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 1:40-4:15-6:40
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:20-6:40-9:40
Quantum of Solace (14A) Wed 1:30-4:30-7:30 Thu 4:30-7:30-10:20
Role Models (14A) Wed 1:50-4:40-7:20
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 1-4-7:10 No Passes Thu 4-7:10-10:10
The Spirit (14A) Thu 4:40-7:25-9:55
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes No Passes Wed 12:20-2:50-5:10-7:35 No Passes Thu 2:50-5:10-7:35-9:50
Twilight (PG) Wed 12:40-3:30-6:45 Thu 7:20-10:15
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 4:10-7-9:45
Yes Man (PG) Passes Wed 1:20-4:20-6:50 No Passes Thu 4:20-6:50-10

EAU CLAIRE MARKET
200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

Australia (PG) Wed 2-6:30
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 4-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 12-3-7
Doubt (STC) Thu 3:20-7:10-10
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 12:35-3:35-7:10
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:35-6:50-9:50
Quantum of Solace (14A) Wed 12:30-3:30-6:50 Thu 3:30-7-9:45
The Reader (18A) Thu 3-6:40-9:40
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Wed 12:10-3:10-6:30 Thu 3:10-6:30-9:30
Twilight (PG) Wed 12:20-3:20-6:40

EMPIRE STUDIO 16 COUNTRY HILLS
388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

Australia (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 12:30-4-6:15
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 4-7:10-9:35
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 12:35-2:55 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 3:50-7:05-9:20
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 4:15-5-8-9
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 12:30-1-3-3:30-6:50 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 3:15-6:55-9:40
Doubt (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 3:20-6:30-9:10
Four Christmases (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 12:45-1:15-3:10-3:40-6:50 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 4:05-7:35-9:45
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 12-2:30-6:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 3
Marley & Me (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 3:10-6:40-9:25
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 7:10
Punisher: War Zone (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 6:40
Quantum of Solace (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 12:15-12:45-2:50-3:20-6:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 3:35-7:40-10:15
Role Models (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1:45-4:10
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1:05-4:05-7:05 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 4:05-7:15-10:05
The Spirit (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 4:10-7:25-9:50
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 12:40-3:05-6:50 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 3:05-6:50-9:15
Transporter 3 (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1:50-4:25-7
Twilight (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1:10-4-7:05 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 6:45-9:30
Valkyrie (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 3:30-7:20-10:15
Yes Man (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed 12:25-12:55-3:05-3:35-6:55 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 3:45-4:15-7-7:30-9:30-10

EMPIRE STUDIO 10 MACLEOD TRAIL
100-16061 MacLeod Trail, 403-974-0470

Bedtime Stories (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 4:15-7-9:20
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, Digital Presentation Wed 2-4:30-7:05
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 4-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Wed 1:10-1:40-3:40-4:10-6:40-7:10 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 3:40-6:45-9:10
Four Christmases (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed 1:50-4-7:30 Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Thu 7:15
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Wed 12:50-3:10-6:30
Marley & Me (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 3:30-6:50-9:30
Quantum of Solace (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed 1:20-4:20-7:20 Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Thu 4:45-9:45
Seven Pounds (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed 12:30-3:20-7 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 3:45-6:40-9:40
The Spirit (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 4:20-7:30-10:10
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed 1:30-4:15-6:45 Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Thu 3:50-6:30-9
Twilight (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed 12:40-3:30-6:50
Valkyrie (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 3:15-7:10-10
Yes Man (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed 1-3:50-7:15 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Thu 4:30-7:20-9:50

GLOBE CINEMA
617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

Morning Light (PG) Wed 1:15-3:30
Seven Pounds (14A) Wed 1-3:20 Thu 7-9:20
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 7:15-9:30

MOVIEDOME
1039 999 36 St., 403-248-2000

Beverly Hills Chihuahua Wed 12:55-3:55
City of Ember (PG) Wed 1:05-4
Eagle Eye (14A) Wed 12:45-3:45
The Express (PG) Wed 12:45-3:35
Heaven on Earth (STC) Wed 12:50-3:35
How to Lose Friends & Alienate People Wed 1-3:40
Igor (PG) Wed 1:10-4:05
Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (PG) Wed 2-6:30
Sex Drive (18A) Wed 12:50-3:50

SCOTIABANK CHINOOK
6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

Australia (PG) Wed 2-6:30
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 11:50-2:25-5-7:35-10:05
Bolt (G) Wed 1:10-11:45-2:15-3:45-4:50-7:20 Thu 11:45-2:15-4:50-7:20-9:50
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 12-2-4-6:30-8-10:05
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 12:50-3:50-7:10 No Passes Thu 12:50-3:50-7:10-10:35
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Wed 12-2:30-5:05-7:35 No Passes Thu 12-2:30-5:05-7:35-10:15
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 12:55-3:55-7:15 Thu 12:55-3:55-7:15-9:40
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 12-2:20-4:40-7
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 12:35-3:45-6:55-9:55
Milk (14A) Wed 12:45-3:50-7:05 Thu 12:45-3:50-7:05-10:10
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Wed 1:10-4:20-7:20
Quantum of Solace (14A) Wed 1-4-7 Thu 1-4-7-10
Role Models (14A) Wed 12:35-4:10-6:55
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 1:15-4:25-7:30 No Passes Thu 1:15-4:25-7:30-10:30
The Spirit (14A) Thu 1:20-4:30-7:25-10:30
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 11:50-2:10-4:45-7:15 No Passes Thu 11:50-2:10-4:45-7:15-9:40
Transporter 3 (14A) Wed 12:40-4:05-7:25
Twilight (PG) Wed 12:25-3:35-6:45 Thu 12:25-3:35-6:45-9:55
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 1:10-4:20-7:25-10:25
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed 12:15-1:15-3:40-4:15-6:50-7:35 No Passes Thu 12:15-1:15-3:40-4:15-6:50-7:35-9:45-10:15
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Wed 7:40

PLAZA THEATRE
1133 Kensington Rd., 403-283-3636

JCVD (14A) Wed 12:40
Jesus Christ Vampire Hunter (STC) Wed 9
Let the Right One In (STC) Wed 2:25-6:50
The Secret of the Nutcracker (STC) Wed 5
A Sex Pistols Xmas (STC) Wed 9

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM
2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30-10:10
Bolt (G) Wed 12:25-1-3:10-3:45-6:45 Thu 12:25-3:05-6:45-9:20
Chakk de Phatte (In Punjabi) (PG) Wed 12-3:15-6:30
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 12:10-3:55-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 12:10-12:50-2:50-3:30-7-7:30 No Passes Thu 12:50-3:30-7-9:45
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 12:30-3:05-7:35 Thu 12:30-3-7:15-9:40
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 12:35-3-6:35
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 12:35-3:25-6:50-9:50
Quantum of Solace (14A) Wed 12:40-3:25-7:05 Thu 12:40-3:20-6:40-9:25
Role Models (14A) Wed 6:50
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 12:20-3:20-7:15 No Passes Thu 12:20-3:35-7:05-10:05
The Spirit (14A) Thu 12:55-3:40-6:55-9:35
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 12:05-2:35-5-7:25 No Passes Thu 12:05-2:35-5-7:25-9:55
Transporter 3 (14A) Wed 12:55-3:50-6:55
Twilight (PG) Wed 12:45-3:40-7:10 Thu 12:45-4-7:10-10
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 1-3:45-6:35-9:30
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed 12:15-1:05-2:55-3:55-6:40-7:20 No Passes Thu 12:15-1:05-2:55-3:50-6:30-7:20-9:15-10:15

WESTHILLS 10
165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291

Australia (PG) Wed 2-6:30
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 3:40-6:50-9:25
Bolt (G) Wed 1:25-4:35-7:10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 3:50-7:50
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 12:35-3:20-7:40 No Passes Thu 3:20-7:40-10:15
Doubt (STC) Thu 4:35-7:10-9:45
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 1:15-4:25-7:15 Thu 4:25-7:15-9:35
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 1:05-4:05-7:05
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 4:05-7:05-9:50
Quantum of Solace (14A) Wed 1:10-4:10-6:50
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 12:25-3:30-7 No Passes Thu 3:30-7:10
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 12:40-3:10-7:25 No Passes Thu 3:10-7:25-9:55
Twilight (PG) Wed 12:50-3:40-6:40
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 4:10-7:20-10:20
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed 1:35-4:20-7:30 No Passes Thu 4:20-7:30-10:10

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Mark S. Allen, CBS/CW TV

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Jake Hamilton, KHOU-TV (CBS), Houston

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Mark S. Allen, CBS/CW TV

"WONDERFUL! PAWS-ITIVELY PERFECT!"
Kara Mack, KPTV-TV, Portland

"GREAT! PACKS AN EMOTIONAL PUNCH."
Kevin Steincross, KTVI-TV, St. Louis

Owen Wilson Jennifer Aniston
Marley & Me

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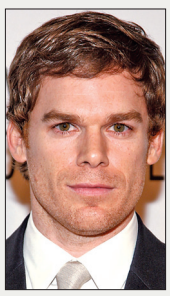
Movie feature

metro life panel

Top 2008 TV actors



1. Michael C. Hall (Dexter)
2. Jeremy Piven (Entourage)
3. Kat Deeley (So You Think You Can Dance U.S.)
4. Shannon Tweed (Gene Simmons Family Jewels)
5. Michael Hogan (Battlestar Galactica)

Hall

Top 2008 TV shows

1. So You Think You Can Dance (Canada)
2. Dexter
3. So You Think You Can Dance (U.S.)
4. Mad Men
5. Battlestar Galactica

Top musicians

1. Coldplay
2. Kanye West
3. AC/DC
4. Jonas Brothers
5. Guns N' Roses
6. Taylor Swift
7. Radiohead
8. Duffy
9. Estelle
10. Crystal Castles

Top 2008 albums

1. Coldplay, Viva la Vida or Death And All His Friends
2. Bob Dylan, Tell Tale Signs — The Bootleg Series, Vol. 6
3. Metallica, Death Magnetic
4. Lil Wayne, Tha Carter III
5. Kathleen Edwards, Asking For Flowers

Top cooking shows

1. Jamie at Home with Jamie Oliver
2. Iron Chef America
3. The F Word with Gordon Ramsay
4. Restaurant Makeover
5. Nigella Feasts with Nigella Lawson

Top eco-products

1. Reusable shopping bag
2. Buying local grown food
3. Taking transit
4. Compact florescent lights
5. Reusable water bottle

SOURCE: AS VOTED BY METRO LIFE PANEL MEMBERS

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

Kenya talks to singer Fergie about make up, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis

WILL RETURN

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

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CA	Vu	SC		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/24/08	267	351	- ACCESS	Help TV		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		*Home for the Holidays* (2005, Drama) Sean Young.				Help TV
primetime	243	317	3 CFCN	Corner Gas	Hollywood	Rita MacNeil's Christmas		*A Christmas Carol* ★★★ (1951, Fantasy) Alastair Sim.				News (N)
	-	-	4 OMNI	Voice of Courage		Masoom		Hong Kong Express		Chinese Rest.	Chinese Rest.	Christmas
	-	371	5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (2005)				
	245	306	6 CBRT	*It's a Wonderful Life* ★★★★ (1946, Comedy-Drama) James Stewart, Donna Reed.						CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338	7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	Bones (HDTV PA)		Bones (HDTV PA)		Painkiller Jane		News Hour
	246	-	8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		Murdoch Mysteries		Murdoch Mysteries		Little Spirit: Christmas		Your City
	119	705	9 CBXFT	Antarctique	*Voyage au pays imaginaire* ★★★ (2004, Drame) (SC)				Louez un mari	Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		Messe
	-	-	10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming						Local Programming		
	-	372	12 KREM	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors (PA)		Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY
	-	374	14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Cricket on the Hearth		Christmas-Mormon Choir		Celtic Woman-Greatest		Christmas-Luth
	502	390	15 CBC	CBC News: The National		Queen Elizabeth: Reign		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Queen: Reign
	-	370	16 KHQ	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	*It's a Wonderful Life* ★★★★ (1946, Comedy-Drama) James Stewart.				
	-	373	22 KAYU	The Simpsons	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two-Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA)		Bones (HDTV PA)		News (N)
	297	652	37 WPIX	The Story of Santa Claus		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two-Half Men	Friends	Midnight Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral		
news	500	500	29 CNN	Larry King Live		CNN Presents "After Jesus: The First Christians"				Larry King Live		CNN Presents
	508	502	31 CNN2	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace		Showbiz Tonight		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace
sports	400	400	21 TSN	(6) College Football Sheraton Hawaii Bowl -- Hawaii vs. Notre Dame.					SportsCentre	NFL Films	Madden Nation	Poker
	408	418	27 net	Sportsnet Connected (HDTV)		Connected Reflections (HDTV)		Best Damn Sports Show		Connected Reflections (HDTV)		Sportsnet Con.
	410	403	30 SCORE	08 Wrap	NFL Films on the Score		Court Surfing	Footy Show	Best of Score	Top 50 Plays of the Year		Hockey Talk
	411	457	44 OLN	Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	48 SPEED	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)
family	552	543	20 YTV	The Nutcracker		Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town		He-Man, She-Ra Christmas		Weird Years	Martin Mystery	Martin Mystery
	557	541	39 FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	555	545	67 TOON	(6:30) *Jack Frost* ★★ (1998, Fantasy)			Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Looney Tunes Christmas		Futurama	The Critic
cable variety	575	583	11 CMT	Home Improve.	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Paul Brandt's Christmas		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.
	553	546	17 TREE	Fourth King	Backyardigans	Comfy Couch	Sec Star-Left	Daniel Cook	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	-	-	18 CHTV	Tube Tales	TV Made, Do It	Inside Hollywood		*To Be Fat Like Me* (2007, Docudrama) Kaley Cuoco.				What Happen?
	505	398	19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	602	568	23 W	*All She Wants for Christmas*		Friends	Will & Grace	Shopping Bags	Shopping Bags	*Borrowed Hearts* (1997, Drama) Roma Downey.		
	521	560	24 TLC	17 Kids-Count	17 Kids-Count	17 Kids-Count	17 Kids-Count	17 Kids and Counting		17 Kids-Count	17 Kids-Count	17 Kids-Count
	603	561	25 FOOD	Iron Chef America		Iron Chef America		Iron Chef America		Iron Chef America		Iron Chef Am.
	615	520	26 A&E	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter
	617	522	32 SHOW	EastEnders	Saxondale	*The Man Who Saved Christmas* (2002, Docudrama), Ed Asner				Trailer Park Boys Christmas		Say Goodnight
	601	562	33 SLICE	Real Housewives of OC		Filthy Rich: Cattle Drive		ET Canada	Matchmaker	Real Housewives of OC		Trading Sp
	-	633	34 ENC2	(6:50) *Selena* ★★★ (1997, Biography) Jennifer Lopez.				*Christmas Eve* ★★★ (1986, Drama)			*I'll Be Home for Christmas*	
	520	505	35 DISC	Monster Moves		Monster Moves		Monster Moves		Monster Moves		Monster Moves
	620	523	36 BRAVO	Wingfield	Cmas Music	Christmas at the Concert Hall		Law & Order "Return"		Without a Trace		*The Cable Guy*
	294	650	40 WPCH	*Nightmre Bfore*	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy	*The Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993)			Movie	
	626	547	41 COM	Colbert Christmas: Gift		Jeff Dunham's Very Special Christmas Special				The Simpsons	South Park	Dennis Leary
	-	539	42 TCM	*The Cheaters*	*Cluny Brown* ★★ (1946, Comedy)			(9:15) *Remember the Night* (1940, Romance-Comedy)				*Meet-St. Louis*
	628	584	43 SPIKE	Pros vs. Joes		Pros vs. Joes		I Bet You Will	MANswers	MANswers	MANswers	MANswers
	522	516	45 HIST	In Search of Santa Claus		NCIS "Head Case"		Cities of the Underworld		In Search of Santa Claus		NCIS
	627	528	46 SPACE	*Star Trek: The Motion Picture* ★★ (1979, Science Fiction)					(9:45) *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan* ★★★ (1982)			
	-	-	47 AMC	(6) *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*		*Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* ★★★ (1971, Fantasy)						*Prancer*
	619	525	49 TROP	Married... With	Frasier	Frasier	Raymond	Raymond	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	'70s Show	The Nanny
	600	564	50 HGTV	Holiday Windows 2008		Design Inc. Holiday		Holmes on Homes		My Parents' House: Holidays		TBA
	501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	504	508	70 BNN	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Business News	Squeeze Play
	526	507	92 VIVA	The West Wing		Mediums	Psychic Detect	Mediums	Encounters	Judging Amy		Commander
	269	350	93 APTN	Canadian Geographic		APTN National News: Contact		*Luna: Spirit of the Whale* (2007, Docudrama) Adam Beach.				133 Skyway
	-	-	94 MCP	(6:30) News	News	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Hola Que Tal
	571	581	100 MMM	Fabulous Life Of...		All-Time Top 10 AC/DC.		Fabulous Life Of... (N)		Party of Five "Go Away"		All-Time 10
	570	580	101 MM	The O.C.		The O.C.		Video on Trial	Video on Trial	MuchTopRock 2008		MuchOnDem
	581	566	102 MTV	Exiled "Inside the Exile"		Exiled		MTV Live	After	Next	Mom & Dad	Exiled

critics' corner

Borrowed Hearts
A businessman (Eric McCormack) needs to pretend he's a family man to impress a potential client, so he asks an employee (Roma Downey) and her daughter to pose as his wife and kid. Dude, if this guy is so narrow-minded as to discriminate against single people, you don't need his business. 10 PM on W

It's a Wonderful Life
Yes, it was just on. But now that this 1946 holiday classic isn't being screened around the clock anymore, it doesn't hurt to give folks a couple of chances to watch it — especially on Christmas Eve. James Stewart is unforgettable as the financially ruined family man who wants to end it all ... until an apprentice angel (Henry Travers) shows him how much worse off the world would be without him. Donna Reed and Lionel Barrymore also star. 7 PM on CBRT

Britney dancing to a new beat

Britney Spears has reportedly parted ways with her long-term choreographers. The singer has worked with Wade Robson and Andre Fuentes since 1999 and 1998, respectively. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Hudson vows to stay a single girl

PEOPLE Kate Hudson informed the January issue of In Style that she's "made a conscious decision to try to stay single as long as possible," msn.com reports.

Still, it's suspected she's back with ex Owen Wilson, a mole maintains. "They've been quietly seeing each other and hooking up ... But I don't see it being a monogamous thing yet."

Hudson has said she does not believe people were meant to be monogamous.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Klum and Seal a pair of lovebirds

RELATIONSHIP Heidi Klum and Seal, attending an intimate dinner party at West Hollywood's Chateau Marmont earlier this week, people.com reports. The couple sat on the hotel's patio, and acted "very cozy with each other," an onlooker says.

The pair sat at the table with five friends and laughed and chatted for hours. Klum sipped wine with one hand, while keeping the other firmly on Seal's knee. Every once in a while, Seal would lean over and kiss his wife on the cheek. Says the onlooker: "It was very sweet. METRO NEWS SERVICES

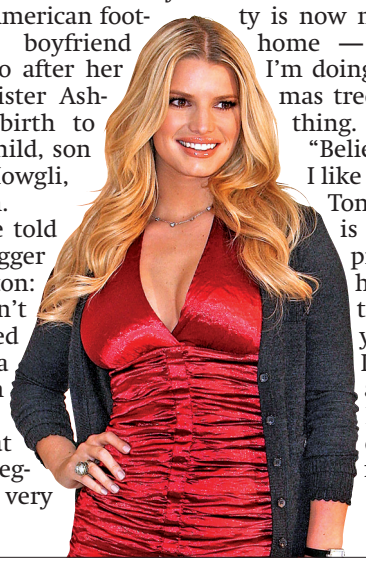
GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

A domesticated Jessica wants baby

PEOPLE Jessica Simpson is "actively trying" for a baby, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer is reportedly desperate to start a family with her American football star boyfriend Tony Romo after her younger sister Ashlee gave birth to her first child, son Bronx Mowgli, last month.

A source told gossip blogger Perez Hilton: "I wouldn't be surprised if Jessica makes an announcement that she's pregnant very, very soon."



Meanwhile, the singer has revealed that the festive period has domesticated her.

She said: "My personality is now more stay-at-home — right now I'm doing the Christmas tree and everything.

"Believe it or not, I like to bake pies. Tony's favourite is pumpkin pie and I haven't mastered that yet. Maybe I'm more of a baker — I like to make cakes, more fattening."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ritchie rebuffs rebound rumours

DATING Guy Ritchie is not dating Jemima Khan, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The RocknRolla director sparked rumours he was in a relationship with Jemima after the pair were seen attending a series of parties together over the last month, but it has now been claimed they are simply friends.

A source close to Guy said: "It's not romantic, they are both with the same PR company and the two times they have been together recently were at work events. They have always got along well and have known each other for years."

However, pals are still hoping their friendship might develop into romance: "Could they date in the future? I don't know. In the past they have only seen each other when they have been in relationships, so the thought of being romantic or dating has never had the opportunity to arise."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jackson in fine health: Doctor

PEOPLE Michael Jackson's representative has denied the singer is suffering from a potentially deadly genetic disease, insisting he is in "fine health," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 50-year-old singer's spokesman Dr. Tohme Tohme has dismissed claims made by biographer Ian Halperin that the Thriller star is close to death because he is battling inherited condition A1AD (alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency) which leaves sufferers without a protein needed to protect the lungs.

Tohme insists Michael is in such good health he is even planning a world tour and several TV appearances for 2009.

The representative said: "The wild allegations concerning Mr. Jackson's health are a total fabrication. Concerning this author's allegations, we would hope in the future that legitimate media will not continue to be exploited by such an obvious attempt to promote this unauthorized 'biography.'

METRO NEWS SERVICES

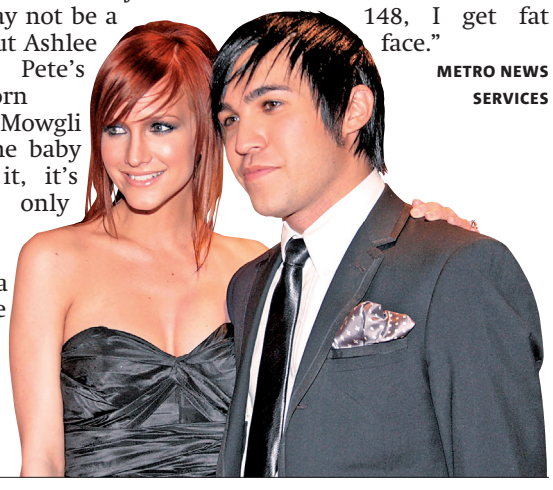
Pete dishes on breast milk and parenthood

FAMILY Pete Wentz revealed that wife Ashlee Simpson's breast milk tastes "soury" and "weird" on SIRIUS' The Morning Mash Up! on Monday, usweekly.com reports.

The Fall Out Boy bassist, 29, may not be a fan, but Ashlee and Pete's newborn Bronx Mowgli is: "The baby loves it, it's the only thing he's had a chance to have."

Wentz went on to reveal that Ashlee isn't the only Wentz to put on some pregnancy weight: "I gained 10 pounds at least. I usually hang out around 135, 134, I go up to about 140, and when I hit 148, I get fat face."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Cox believer in marriage

MARRIAGE Courteney Cox and David Arquette are committed to making their marriage work, usweekly.com reports.

"I get shocked by people getting divorced all the time, that's why I choose to work on it. Therapy helps us," Cox told the UK's Mail on Sunday "It's so easy to grow apart; marriage takes work. I suppose you can work it out by talking to each other — I would just prefer to have a referee, it reminds us why we're together."

Cox's parents parents divorced when she was a child. "Before my dad died, he said one of his big regrets was that he hadn't worked on their marriage enough. I don't know what the future's going to hold, but divorce isn't really an option," she said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Complicated holiday affair for Moss household

PEOPLE Kate Moss has angered partner Jamie Hince by inviting her ex-boyfriend to spend Christmas with her, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The supermodel is keen to spend time with Jefferson Hack over the festive season for the sake of their six-year-old daughter Lila Grace, but Jamie is said to be furious.

This means inviting both Lila's dad, Jefferson, and her boyfriend, Jamie to her Cotswolds home — no matter what the consequences, Kate has also invited Jefferson's girlfriend Anouck Lepere to spend the day with them, and is determined to make it as special as possible for Lila.

The source adds: "It may be a little awkward and there are bound to be squabbles, but Kate reckons as long as she acts as a buffer, all will be fine."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Heidi and Spencer talk kids, in-laws

PEOPLE Will newlyweds Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt soon welcome a newborn? And does Heidi's mom really dislike Spencer? One of the most talked-about couples on TV told all to Ryan Seacrest on his radio show, msn.com is reporting.

When Seacrest asked the couple on his KIIS-FM radio show whether Heidi's mom disapproves of Heidi's marriage with Spencer, the reality starlet said her mother's comments were "kinda taken out of context. She was more joking around. She loves Spencer."

Ryan also wondered if Heidi and Spencer plan on having children. "We definitely need a kid, ASAP," Spencer said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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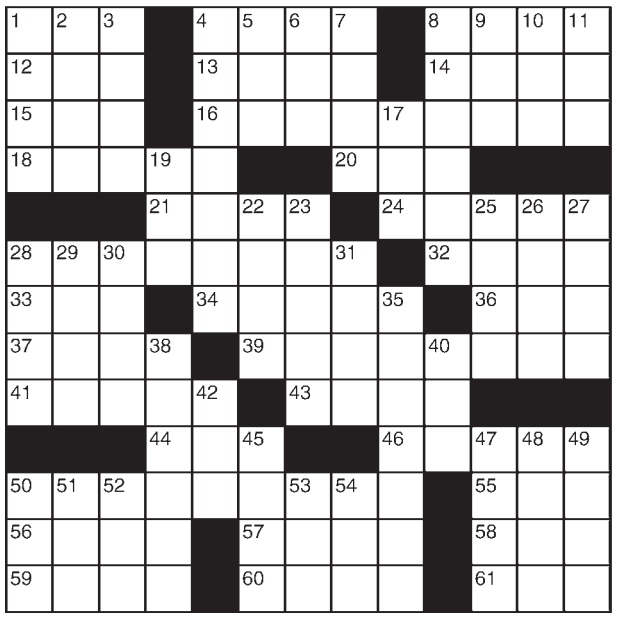
Friday Partly Cloudy -14 C / -22 C

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Andrew Schultz, Weather Specialist – Breakfast Television
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta." **WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.**

Take Five



Crossword across

1 Type squares
4 Spring
8 Saharan
12 Sweet potato
13 Aware of
14 — contendere
15 Id counterpart
16 Dime portrait
18 Not limp
20 Tackle moguls
21 Exploding star
24 Nudge
28 Midwestern farmland
32 Rescue
33 Wanted-poster letters
34 Ann —, Mich.
36 — -relief
37 Vivacity, in music
39 Deli lunch order
41 Taco topping
43 Apportion
44 Expert
46 Battery terminal
50 Sincere
55 Exclude
56 Anger
57 Dog bane
58 "— Impossible"
59 Remain
60 Revue segment
61 Make lace

Crossword down

1 Watchful one
2 Creche trio
3 Urban pall
4 City in Argentina
5 Lennon's lady
6 Judge Lance
7 Privation
8 Blacksmiths' blocks
9 Caviar essence
10 Not up to par
11 Morse "E"
17 — out a living
19 Hostel
22 Perp. to hor.
23 Photo book
25 Infant
26 Ellipse
27 TV Batman portrayer
28 City fleet
29 Gumbo base
30 Form of transportation
31 Colour quality
35 Drumming noise
38 Fish-eating hawk
40 Chaps
42 Illustrations
45 Slays, "Sopranos" style
47 Last write-up
48 Computer fodder
49 Formerly, formerly
50 Storefront sign abbr.
51 Chow down
52 — Khan
53 Wapiti
54 Wahine's garland

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

			9					
		2		5		3		
		3	1				5	8
6		8			2			4
5								9
7			8			5		1
1	4				9	2		
		6		4		1		
					3			

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

C	U	E	D	■	T	W	A	S
A	R	E	A	■	H	A	L	E
P	I	N	S	T	R	I	P	E
■	■	■	H	A	U	L	■	P
T	A	P	E	D	■	■	E	A
E	N	I	D	■	L	A	N	G
A	N	N	■	S	O	L	V	E
M	O	N	O	P	O	L	Y	■
■	■	■	U	P	O	N	■	■
T	E	M	P	O	■	A	M	E
O	R	B	■	F	I	R	I	N
A	G	E	■	E	R	I	E	■
D	O	R	■	D	E	A	N	■

S	I	T						
A	D	O						
F	E	W						
■	■	■						
P	A	E	A	N				
E	A	S	T	■				
L	A	N	G	S	Y	N	E	
S	O	L	V	E	■	P	E	D
■	B	I	R	D				
H	A	N	D	Y				
A	M	E	N	■	■	■		
F	I	R	I	N	G	P	I	N
E	R	I	E	■	L	A	T	E
D	E	A	N	■	E	L	S	E

2	1	6	9	4	5	3	8	7
5	8	4	1	7	3	6	2	9
3	7	9	2	8	6	1	5	4
1	5	2	7	9	8	4	6	3
9	6	7	5	3	4	8	1	2
8	4	3	6	1	2	9	7	5
7	9	5	3	6	1	2	4	8
4	2	1	8	5	9	7	3	6
6	3	8	4	2	7	5	9	1

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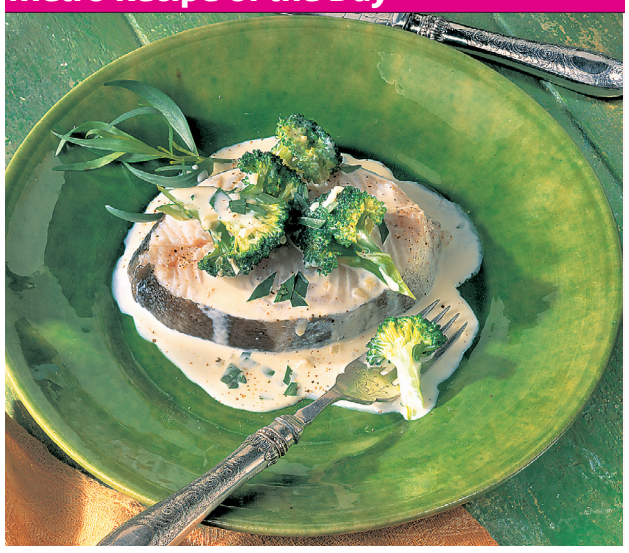
SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min Genius
13-17 min Scholar
17-21 min Smart
21-25 min Not bad
25+ min Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Cod steaks with creamy broccoli

INGREDIENTS:
4 fresh cod steaks, about 6 oz (170 g) each
2 tbsp (25 mL) extra virgin olive oil
Salt and black pepper
1 shallot
3/4 lb (335 g) broccoli florets
10 sprigs of fresh tarragon
3/4 cup (200 mL) whipping cream

METHOD:
1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Dry cod steaks, then brush with 1 tbsp (15 mL) of oil and season well.
2. Cut four pieces of foil, each large enough to enclose a steak. Put one steak on each piece of foil, fold edges together to make a roomy parcel, and crimp to seal. Lay steaks on baking sheet and cook for 15 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, peel and grate shallot. Rinse broccoli and trim into small florets.
4. Heat remaining oil in frying pan and fry shallot until translucent.
5. Add broccoli to pan, stems down, with 2/3 cup (150 mL) of water, and bring to boil, then cover and simmer for 4-5 minutes until broccoli is barely tender. Remove lid, raise heat, and cook until only 1–2 tbsp (25 mL) of water remain in pan. Do not let broccoli burn.
6. Rinse and dry tarragon. Reserve four sprigs as garnish, then strip leaves off the rest and add to broccoli. Stir in cream, season to taste with salt and pepper, and keep warm.
7. Remove foiled steaks from oven, unwrap, and transfer onto four warmed plates. Spoon broccoli over fish, garnish with tarragon, and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Have a health problem checked out. Get resentment off your chest before you explode. Take radical action, if necessary.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A quarrelsome person is being selfish. Tasks will blunt the impact of a fantasy romance. Get cracking on solving a puzzling predicament.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A headstrong person refuses to co-operate. A financial rumour causes a fleeting anxiety attack. A chatty friend criticizes your talent for rejection.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Continue to have faith in your instincts. Too many coincidences will raise eyebrows. Friends are waiting for promises to be kept.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Give a needy person a handout. Something's got to give in a miserable relationship. Make a break for freedom.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A fateful encounter with a dutiful man takes place. There'll be a lot of stress involved. Avoid mindless chit-chat with a passionate person.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You need to get away. You've got nothing to left to lose. An appreciative person responds to an invitation.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Listen carefully to a battle plan. Hopes can now bloom into reality. An aloof person has confidence in a rebel.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Your amusement reaches new heights. Organization is crucial to efficiency. A pragmatic person wants to show devotion.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
A hypercritical person throws a wrench into plans. Avoid disturbing the peace by rushing in to fix things. Use your imagination to find satisfaction.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
A delightful answer will be given. Pamper yourself with treats. Your achievement impresses everyone.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A pesky little pest must be confronted. An interfering hypocrite comes to grief. You can anticipate a change in strategy.

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